

**RHODAMNIA PAUCIOVULATA, A NEW SPECIES OF
MYRTACEAE FROM QUEENSLAND**

G.P. Guymer

Queensland Herbarium, Meiers Road, Indooroopilly, Qld 4068

Summary

Rhodamnia pauciovulata is described as new and compared with *R. rubescens* (Benth.) Miq. It has a restricted range along the central coast of Queensland.

This paper describes the taxon listed as *Rhodamnia* sp. A in the key to the Australian species of *Rhodamnia* (Guymer & Jessup 1986). The species was previously known from one inadequate collection (*Webb & Tracey* 1056 p.p.) held at BRI and K. Subsequent collections of this taxon by the author in January 1986 have confirmed that it is a distinct species.

Rhodamnia pauciovulata Guymer, **sp. nov.**; *R. rubescens* (Benth.) Miq. affinis, a qua foliis ovatis velutinis, inflorescentia unifloris et ovario pauciovulato (8-12) differt. **Typus:** Queensland, NORTH KENNEDY DISTRICT: Dryander Creek, 4 km ESE of Mt Dryander, 20°16'S, 148°36'E, 9 January 1986, G.P. Guymer 2005 (holo: BRI; iso: BRI,CANB,CBG,DNA,K,L,MEL,MO,NE,NSW,QRS).

Small trees or shrubs 3-6 m tall; bark red-brown or grey, flaky. Branchlets terete with grey and brown striped bark, puberulent (hairs simple, erect, 0.15-0.5 mm long), glabrescent. Lamina ovate, glabrous or with scattered hairs above, velutinous below (tomentum of simple, white hairs ca 0.1 mm long, interspersed with longer hairs 0.2-0.5 mm long), (1.5)2.5-5.3 cm long, 1.8-4 cm wide; apex acuminate; base broadly cuneate or truncate; oil glands dense, 1-5 per areole; primary veins 3, suprabaasal perfect acrodromous, laterals 2-4.5 mm from margin; tertiary venation distinct and raised above, obscure and ± flush below; petiole 2-3.5 mm long. Inflorescences axillary, 1 or 2 per axil, monads, 10-14 mm long; pedicels sparsely puberulent, 5-11 mm long; pherophylls and metaxyphylls sparsely puberulent, lanceolate to narrowly triangular, persistent, 0.8-1.1 mm long. Flowers 4-merous; perigynium sparsely puberulent, 0.9-1 mm long and 0.7-1.1 mm diameter at anthesis; calyx lobes triangular, sparsely puberulent, glabrescent, margins ciliate, 1.5-2 mm long, 0.8-1.2 mm wide. Petals white, oblong-ovate, glabrous except for ciliate margins, 3-3.6 mm long, 1.8-2 mm wide. Stamens 45-54; filaments white, 1.5-2.5 mm long. Ovary with 2 placentas; summit puberulent; ovules 8-12. Style glabrous, 3.9-5 mm long. Berry ± globular, glabrous, ripening black, crowned by calyx lobes, 4.6-5.4 mm long, 5-7 mm diameter. Seeds 1-7, reniform, slightly flattened, 2.5-4 mm long. **Fig. 1.**

Specimens examined: Queensland, NORTH KENNEDY DISTRICT: Headwaters of Dryander Ck, 20°15'S, 148°35'E, Oct 1969, *Webb & Tracey* 1056 p.p. (BRI,K); Dryander Ck, 4 km ESE of Mt Dryander, 20°16'S, 148°36'E, Jan 1986, *Guymer* 2005 (BRI,CANB,CBG,DNA,K,L,MEL,MO,NE,NSW,QRS); Dryander Ck, 20°30'S, 148°50'E, Jan 1986, *Perry* s.n. (BRI); Dryander Ck, about 2 km North of Gregory and about 20 km North of Proserpine, 20°24'S, 148°35'E, Nov 1985, *Sharpe* 4177 (BRI); 4.5 km along Brandy Ck Forestry rd, 20°21'S, 148°41'E, Jan 1986, *Guymer* 2009 (BRI); Whitsunday Is., near Hill Islet, Nov 1985, *Batianoff* 3620 & *Dalliston* (BRI). SOUTH KENNEDY DISTRICT: T.R. 212 Hazeldean, 21°15'S, 148°50'E, Sep 1984, *Dansie* 20170 (QRS).

Distribution: *R. pauciovulata* has a restricted distribution along the central coast of Queensland from Dryander Creek, near Proserpine, to Hazeldean.

Habitat: The species occurs in complex notophyll vine forests and vine thickets from near sea-level to 300 m altitude.

Flowering period: October to January.

Fruiting period: January to March.

Affinities: *R. pauciovulata* is most closely allied to *R. rubescens* but is readily distinguished from this species by its smaller ovate velutinous leaves, 1-flowered inflorescences and few-ovuled ovary.

Conservation status: *Rhodamnia pauciovulata* is assessed as a vulnerable species (3V) using the coding system of Leigh *et al.* (1981). The species has a distribution of 125 km but is known from only four small populations.

Etymology: The specific epithet refers to the low number of ovules in the ovary compared to that of *R. rubescens* (40–80).

Acknowledgements

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References

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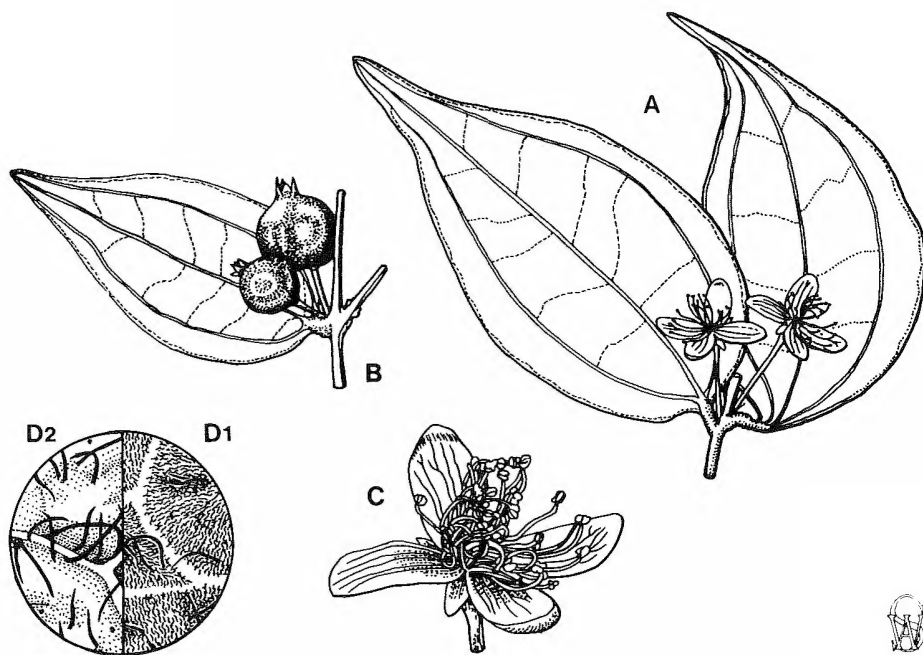


Fig. 1. *Rhodamnia pauciovulata*: A, flowering branchlet $\times 1.5$. B, fruiting branchlet $\times 1.5$. C, flower $\times 4$. D₁, abaxial leaf surface $\times 25$. *Rhodamnia rubescens*: D₂, abaxial leaf surface $\times 25$. A, B, C, D₁, Guymmer 2005. D₂, Guymmer 1996.